

Remarks

Claim Objections:

The examiner has objected to the phrases "the major portion", the vertical surface area", and "the vertical mirrored surface" as lacking proper antecedent basis. These phrases have been removed from the claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The claims 1-2 were rejected under 35 USC § 102 (b) as being unpatentable with primary reliance being had on U.S. patent No. 5,604,633 to Christianson ("Christianson"). Claims 1-5 were similarly rejected with primary reliance being had on U.S. patent No. 5,094,519 to Ealey ("Ealey").

Withdrawal of the objections is respectfully requested for at least the following reasons. As amended, Claim 1 recites a mirror with water gathering features and retaining structures. The mirror of Christianson clearly does not have water gathering features or retaining structures, the back plate (14) being featureless, and the water being unimpeded in running off the back of the mirror and not gathered or directed in any controlled way.

As amended, Claim 1 recites features disposed behind the mirrored surface for gathering freely flowing water. While Ealey does disclose features and structures (18) for retaining water, the water is constrained within the cavity and does not take up freely flowing water as described in the present amended claim.

As amended, Claim 2 is changed to remove unclear phrases

As amended, Claim 3 describes a mirror wherein a vertical surface of the mirror is utilised to admit freely flowing water into several water retaining structures. Ealey shows water constrained within closed flow paths (18), quite unlike the use of unconstrained free flowing water in the present invention. A device that uses a vertical surface of the mirror to admit freely flowing water is described in US Pat. No. 4,655,559 but that device has only one water retaining structure. In contrast, the present invention has several water retaining structures, the key feature to its functionality.

As amended, Claim 4 describes mirror equipment as claimed in claim 3, wherein water-retaining structures are comprised of material of open cellular structures. Ealey, shows a closed cellular construction, but the present invention recites cells that are open to the atmosphere so that they can be easily filled and emptied by freely flowing water.

As amended, claim 5 describes a mirror as in claim 3, wherein the water retaining structures are holes or cavities open to the atmosphere. This amendment distinguishes the present claim from Ealey who taught water circulation in a closed cavity.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, request is made for timely issuance of notice of allowance.

Respectfully submitted

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